

Positive Discipline

The Department of Education wants to help you and your school with positive discipline programs.

Superintendent Tom Horne's Discipline Initiative; please check our website at www.ade.state.az.us. This includes:

- The Arizona Behavioral Initiative offers grants to schools and distance learning courses through Arizona State University, Northern Arizona University and the University of Arizona regarding school-wide positive behavior support (<http://abi.ed.asu.edu>).
- Best practices regarding positive discipline and effective instruction through the Discipline Initiative website (www.ade.state.az.us) and through www.azpromisingpractices.com.
- Character education programs have been proven to substantially reduce discipline problems. Please email charactered@ade.az.gov.
- Classroom management and school-wide positive behavior support workshops. www.ade.state.az.us
- Pamphlets for parents, urging support of teachers in discipline incidents, are available from ADE, at www.ade.state.az.us

References for Key rules on Behavior

- School boards have the job of supporting and assisting teachers in the enforcement of rules. (A.R.S.15-843.D.1.-4.)
- A teacher may remove a student from the classroom who is disruptive. (A.R.S.15-841.A.2.)
- A school may reassign a pupil to an alternative program if the pupil refuses to comply with rules. (A.R.S.15-841.E.;A.R.S.15-841.F.)
- A student can forfeit his/her right to a free public education. Expulsion is for continued disruptive behavior, or for violent or dangerous behavior. (A.R.S.15-841.B.)
- A school may refuse to admit any pupil who has been expelled from another public school. (A.R.S.15-841.C.)



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Parents

**A message from
State Superintendent
Tom Horne
on discipline,
attendance and
homework.**



Arizona Department of Education
Tom Horne
Superintendent of Public Instruction

Tips for Parents

Attendance:

We live in an era of high-stakes testing. To obtain diplomas, students will have to pass reasonable tests--tests that ask only questions that cover materials that were taught in class.

In Massachusetts, the students were given five chances to pass, as they will be in Arizona; 90% passed. When the records of the other 10% were examined, almost all of them had poor attendance.

Because the test questions measure only materials that were covered in class, students who attend school should pass the test, but the schools cannot teach students who are not there.

Good attendance is a key.

Homework:

Helping children with homework is a wonderful way for parents and children to interact. That means never supplying the answers but asking questions that help lead the students to creating their own answers. Ways of helping:

- designate a quiet place for your child to do homework
- support the teachers by ensuring homework is completed and turned in on time
- help your child value the importance of doing homework

Students who do homework achieve at a higher level.



Arizona Department of Education

Dear Parents:

Our society has experienced a significant reduction in the extent to which parents support schools in the maintenance of classroom discipline. Parents used to support schools in making students understand that actions have consequences. Now, some parents become advocates for their children, and in some cases even threaten to "call a lawyer" if the school insists on enforcing discipline for student misbehavior.

When schools defer to parents' demands, it severely interferes with classroom discipline and the ability to raise academic achievement. I believe that 99% of parents do want a professional, well-disciplined atmosphere in the classroom and do want to support their children's schools in making this a reality.

When parents and schools work together as a team, student behavior improves. See www.ade.state.az.us.

For these reasons, I have started an initiative to ensure classroom discipline. I hope you will work with your school to make this a successful endeavor, which will ultimately raise the academic performance of all of our students.

Tom Horne

Tom Horne
Arizona State Superintendent of Public Instruction